

# Congregational Tidings

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



A weekly newsletter



[www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa)

April 28, 2021

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP REMINDER



Come join your friends for worship, Sunday, May 16, at 10:30, for worship at the Riverloop Amphitheatre, 225 Commercial St., Waterloo. It's been such a long time since we have been together, and we miss seeing each other in person! Since we want to protect each other, we ask that folks wear masks and respect social distancing guidelines.

Would you like to ride your bike? For those who would like to take a group bike ride after the service, bring or ride your bike to worship! Bring a bag lunch, and we'll hit the trails for a special time of biking fellowship following worship and lunch.

Questions--contact Anne Hoekstra, 319-269-0241 or [annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com](mailto:annelouisehoekstra@gmail.com).

We also plan to meet for outdoor worship on Sunday, June 6. More information to follow.

~ Anne Hoekstra

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## INTERGENERATIONAL TREE PLANTING EVENT

Attention People of ALL ages: Sunday, May 2nd at 1pm, we will be doing an intergenerational tree planting event! Meet us at the church in clothes you don't mind getting dirty in. Don't feel like getting messy? We would still love to see you! Never planted a tree before? We would love to have you learn! Have a friend or neighbor that would be interested in coming? Bring them along! All are welcome!

*Questions?*

Contact Abbie Greene ([abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com)) or Tim Ahrens ([tahrens53@msn.com](mailto:tahrens53@msn.com)).

**There will be leftover trees to take home and plant elsewhere as well.**



## PRAYER REQUEST AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Please keep Lynne Ensworth in your prayers as she underwent surgery Tuesday for a broken and dislocated tibia and fibula just above her ankle. She and Tim were carrying a wooden bridge that Tim had built into their woods when she took a misstep. Both Tim and Lynne will appreciate your prayers and concern as she undertakes several months of recovery and rehabilitation. This is her last week of teaching at UNI (remotely from Maine) before her retirement at the end of this week. May God grant her comfort and complete healing from this unfortunate injury.

Congratulations and best wishes to Lynne also for her retirement from her teaching career at UNI!

## HELLO READING FANS!

The next novel that the book study group will be delving into is *Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally* by Marcus J. Borg. We will start on Sunday, May 2nd at our normal time, 9:20am with discussing Chapter 1 over Zoom.

You can purchase the book through Thriftbooks or Amazon but of course there are plenty of other ways to find it! The ISBN is as follows: 9780060609191. You can go to this link for a preview of the book which includes the first two chapters...[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Reading\\_the\\_Bible\\_Again\\_For\\_the\\_First\\_Ti/IKu1ftiVKQsC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Reading_the_Bible_Again_For_the_First_Ti/IKu1ftiVKQsC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)

We are excited to welcome any and all into engaging conversations and fellowship! Questions? You can send an email to Abbie ([abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.youthdirector@gmail.com)). We hope to see you there!

~ Abbie Greene  
Director of Youth Ministries

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## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

### WINTER TO SPRING

Snow and ice release their grip  
As spring intrudes on winter's hold  
The silent solace begins to slip  
As birds return with voices bold

Dormant seeds begin to root  
Unseen by eyes beneath the soil  
Is that an owl we heard just hoot  
As rivers rise in downward toil

The light of day grows longer still  
And warmth fights cold for who will rule  
As eveningtide hosts a chill  
Moonlight on water shines like jewels

As daybreak tempts still sleepy eyes  
A rooster crows in earlier hour  
And dew on greening grass now dries  
The earth again renews her power

There a bud, and here a sprout  
A resurrection theme abounds  
As hungry insects scurry about  
Mushrooms form from dampened grounds

Life awakes as rains do fall  
And nature's music fills the air  
If we but hear her goading call  
What beauty we might dare

**Bret S. Myers, 4/22-23/2021**

# CREATIVE CORNER



## Grandpa's Café

My daughter, Molly, made me a picnic table for Fathers' Day last year. It was outfitted with the sign "Grandpa's Café" created by grandson, Wesley. It's purpose was to feed the squirrels in the neighborhood, specifically Peanuts, the most consistent customer and one who would eat out of my hand. Every day I would set out peanuts and yell, "peanuts!" out the deck door. If Peanuts, the squirrel, was around, she would come running up the deck ramp to eat her meal from me. And whichever squirrels showed up for the meal, there was never a peanut crumb left behind.

However, as winter became colder and the snow became deeper, I noticed a change in the behavior of the squirrels ... one I wouldn't have expected. Whoever came first for a meal would eat some and leave the rest behind. I thought, given the cold and snow, that eating all of the meal would be even more important. But on one day in particular a squirrel, a male cardinal, a female cardinal, a blue jay, a junco, black-capped chickadees, and another squirrel all came to Grandpa's Café, one at a time. They each ate a bit and then left peanuts for the next customer. Why? Why in the very cold weather with 12" of snow on the ground wouldn't they take full advantage of the situation and eat it all? In subsequent days I noticed the same behavior over and over ... eating a little and leaving some behind. Sometimes there would still be a peanut or two left behind at the end of the day, as if no one was going to take the last piece.

It seems the wildlife, or not-so-wild life, was sharing at a time when they probably all needed the meal the most. Often, the next customer would be waiting on the deck railing waiting patiently for the previous customer to finish. We humans could learn a lot from these backyard folks, I think. Even when they were most in need, they knew to share generously with their brothers and sisters ... hmm.

~ Paul Greene



## May Birthdays

1	12	24
Lynne Zellhoefer	Josh Backens	Dorothy Brecunier
2	15	Austin Naber
Roger Lane	Jan Bernhard	25
4	Marie Kelch	Dorothy Baker
Ed Dams	Hildegard Larsen	Lorraine Heinick
Molly Bishop	16	Jayden Zellhoefer
Lucas Hoffman	Jodi Casteel	26
Sam Koch	17	Nathan Leary
6	Sharon Holdiman	Helen Swisher
Allison Blankenfeld	20	Bob Hurley
7	Jeanne Allbaugh	27
Nancy Heinick	Duane Franke	Lauren Reisinger
Charlianne Weber	Jesse Buck	Kyle Lindaman
Hudson Lourenço	23	28
8	Becky Martens	Brandon Casteel
Dave Panicucci		Eric Ellison
10		31
Elcina Buck		Henry Ensworth
Bonnie Rickert		

## May Anniversaries

4
Todd & Becky Ellison
26
Brandon & Regan Casteel
27
Josh & Charlotte (Driver) Backens

# MAY 2021



# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Friday, May 14 - Sunday, May 16

Sign up to walk an adoptable dog from CBHS!

\$35 includes registration, a 2021 Furry 5K shirt, and sponsor goodie bag!



Register by May 7th at Noon.

[CBHSFurry5K.itsyourrace.com](http://CBHSFurry5K.itsyourrace.com)

**\*\* Chasing Trails through the Trails \*\***

Go out and explore the trails in the Cedar Valley or in your hometown!



*Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.*

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

First Congregational UCC  
608 WEST FOURTH STREET  
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

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